

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO
USINFO WASHDC

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USINFO FOR IPS/PE, IEU, IOP/M AND IBS/PN

TEHRAN FOR AMBASSADOR MACOMBER

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SUBJECT: FURTHER PRESS REACTION TO NATO SUMMIT

REF: ANKARA 3644 (DTG 111316Z MAY 77)

1. THE LONDON NATO CONFERENCE REMAINED AN IMPORTANT
PAGE ONE NEWS ITEM IN MAY 12 TURKISH PRESS. THE CARTER-
DEMIREL AND CLIFFORD-DEMIREL MEETINGS WERE THE DOMINANT
TOPIC OF EDITORIALS AND POLITICAL COLUMNS, WHICH VARIED
WIDELY IN THEIR APPROACH BUT GENERALLY AGREED THAT NOT MUCH
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HAD CHANGED AS A RESULT OF THE MEETINGS.

2. IN THEIR MAY 12 COVERAGE OF THE NATO SUMMIT, CUMHURIYET,
TERCUMAN AND VATAN HEADLINED DEMIREL'S MEETING WITH PRIMIN
CALLAGHAN; SENSATIONALIST GUNAYDIN AND FAR-RIGHT BAYRAK
HAD VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL HEADLINES READING "DEMIREL:
'IF THE EMBARGO ISN'T LIFTED, WE MAY LIMIT OUR DUTIES IN

NATO"; MASS-CIRCULATION HURRIYET HEADLINED "AMERICAN WANTS THE STRENGTHENING OF NATO"; LIBERAL-REFORMIST MILLIYET HAD "DEMIREL: 'WE OUTLINED THINGS, NOW LET THEM THINK'" AND PRO-DEMIREL SON HAVADIS SAID "TURKEY GOT THE RESULT IT WANTED".

3. THE MFA ISSUED A PRESS RELEASE MAY 11 COVERING THE DEMIREL SPEECH TO THE NATO COUNCIL. ACCORDING TO THIS RELEASE, DEMIREL TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT FOR TURKEY TO FULFILL HER COMMITMENTS TO NATO, IT WOULD BE NATURAL FOR HER TO OBTAIN HER DEFENSE NEEDS FROM WITHIN THE ALLIANCE. "FOR THIS REASON, TURKEY WILL HAVE TO REDUCE HER DUTIES IN NATO IF THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT LIFT IN FULL THE RESTRICTIONS ON DEFENSE SUPPORT AID AS SOON AS POSSIBLE", DEMIREL SAID. HE ALSO URGED SPEEDY RATIFICATION OF THE DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT (DCA) IN ORDER "TO ELIMINATE THE PRESENT WEAKNESS IN THE ALLIANCE."

4. MILLIYET CARRIED BOTH AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH DEMIREL AND AN "INSIDE STORY OF THE CARTER-DEMIREL CONVERSATION". AT THE CLOSE OF DEMIREL'S INTERVIEW (WHICH DEALT MOSTLY WITH HOW HE HAD FORCEFULLY AND FORTH-RIGHTLY PRESENTED TURKEY'S CASE TO THE PRESIDENT), DEMIREL SAID "ON OUR WAY OUT, PRESIDENT CARTER SAID HE PERSONALLY BELIEVED THESE (CYPRUS AND THE DCA) SHOULD BE DIFFERENT ISSUES. CONSIDERING THAT HE IS A HEAD OF STATE, YOU CAN INTERPRET BETTER WHAT THESE WORDS MEAN. BESIDES, IF YOU NOTICED, CARTER FREQUENTLY AND EMPHATICALLY REPEATED HOW IMPORTANT TURKEY IS TO THE USA." THE "INSIDE STORY" OF THE TWO LEADERS' TALK, WRITTEN BY M. ALI BIRAND, QUOTED THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PRESIDENT AS SAYING, "I UNDERSTAND YOU. BUT IF I SUBMIT THE DCA TO CONGRESS NOW, IT WILL BE REJECTED. I NEED TIME." THE PRESIDENT ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID, "I PERSONALLY DO NOT BELIEVE IN THE USEFULNESS OF THIS EMBARGO. HOWEVER, WE DID NOT IMPOSE THE EMBARGO, WE INHERITED IT. I KNOW THE SENSITIVITY OF CONGRESS ABOUT IT. CONGRESSMEN BELIEVE THAT TANGIBLE PROGRESS IN CYPRUS WILL CONTRIBUTE TO PEACE IN THIS REGION." BIRAND'S STORY ENDS ON A SOMEWHAT GLOOMY NOTE: "NO AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED IN THE MEETING ON THE SUBJECT OF SEPARATING THE TOPIC OF CYPRUS FROM THE TOPIC OF THE ARMS EMBARGO...TURKISH OFFICIALS WERE ANXIOUS AS THEY LEFT THE MEETING. WHERE DID THE UNITED STATES WANT TO HEAD? HAD CARTER NOT UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS WOULD NOT WORK? THE UNITED STATES HAD BEEN WARNED BY TURKEY TIME AFTER TIME BUT SHE WAS STALLING. WOULD TURKEY HAVE TO TAKE ACTION TO PROVE SHE MEANT WHAT SHE SAID? WHAT WOULD THIS ACTION BE AND WHAT RESULT WOULD COME OF IT?...IF IT WAS FRANKLY EXPLAINED TO THE USA THAT RELATIONS WOULD DETERIORATE IF THE LINK BETWEEN CYPRUS AND U.S.-TURKISH RELATIONS CONTINUED. THERE WAS

NO AGREEMENT, AND SO A VERY IMPORTANT DECISION HAD BEEN LEFT AS A LEGACY TO THE GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL COME TO POWER AFTER THE ELECTIONS."

5. IN A FRONT-PAGE COMMENTARY, MILLIYET'S EDITOR ABDI IPEKCI SAID, "CARTER NOTED TURKEY'S IMPORTANCE, EXPRESSED HIS GOOD INTENTIONS, AND MADE CLEAR THAT AS LONG AS THERE IS NO PROGRESS ON CYPRUS THERE IS NOT MUCH THAT HE CAN DO. NOTHING HAS CHANGED, NOT EVEN A LITTLE BIT." IN CLOSING, IPEKCI QUOTES AN AMERICAN DIPLOMAT AS SAYING, "IT IS USELESS TO EXPECT CARTER TO CHANGE HIS STAND TOWARDS TURKEY ON THE EVE OF ELECTIONS," THEN COMMENTS, "INDEED, TO CREATE A SITUATION WHICH MAY BE INTERPRETED AS SUPPORT OF A SPECIFIC PARTY ON THE EVE OF THESE LECTIONS WOULD LEND CREDENCE TO ALLEGATIONS THAT AMERICA IS BACKING A SPECIFIC PARTY. IT WOULD BE A GREAT MISTAKE ON AMERICA'S PART TO DO THIS AT A TIME WHEN IT IS NOT CLEAR WHO WILL COME TO POWER AFTER THESE ELECTIONS." UNCLASSIFIED

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6. HURRIYET STATED IN AN EDITORIAL, "WHETHER DEMIREL POUNDED ON THE TABLE OR NOT IN LONDON, HIS TRIP AS A WHOLE WAS MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN EXPECTED...CARTER'S WORDS ARE NOT NEW TO TURKEY; THEY WERE SAID BY KISSINGER AND FORD AS WELL, BUT..THE WORDS OF CARTER CARRY WEIGHT AS HE HAS A MAJORITY IN CONGRESS." ALSO IN HURRIYET, COLUMNIST METIN TOKER WROTE THAT "AFTER THE DEMIREL-CARTER TALK, THE AMERICANS HAVE BEGUN TO BELIEVE THAT IF ECEVIT COMES TO POWER WITH HIS OWN MAJORITY, WITH HIS GREAT PRESTIGE, THE PRESS HE DOMINATES, AND THE SUPPORT OF PUBLIC OPINION HE WILL BE ABLE IMMEDIATELY TO EXTEND TO CARTER THE (HELP THAT HE NEEDS) AND THAT THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT WILL BE ABLE TO GRASP THIS HELP AND END THE EMBARGO BY PASSING THE DCA THROUGH THE CONGRESS." BERGUS

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